



CONNECTICUT AFL-CIO

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Testimony of the Connecticut AFL-CIO before the Labor and Public Employees Committee

February 17th, 2015

Senator Winfield, Representative Tercyak and members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee,

I am Lori Pelletier and I serve as the Executive Secretary- Treasurer of the Connecticut AFL-CIO. I am here to testify on behalf of the 900 affiliated local unions who represent 200,000 working men and women from every city and town in our great state as follows:

Proposed H.B. No. 5871 AN ACT CONCERNING WORKERS' COMPENSATION COVERAGE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES PERSONNEL. (LAB)

We support this legislation. Everyday current or retired firefighters get diagnosed with life threatening diseases which are a result of the job they held. Sadly because these diagnosis's cannot be tied to a specific fire, these heroes are left without protection. It saddens all of us when a firefighter gets killed on the job. We see dignitaries, fellow firefighters, and the public turn out to funerals and wakes to show their support. But what about the firefighter who years earlier went into a fire where toxic chemicals were stored, or asbestos was used, or the fire was so intense steel melted and now is diagnosed with a fatal disease. Why should that firefighter's family be protected at a lower value? Firefighters don't ask for inventory of a building when it's burning they just respond to the alarm. Well now the alarm is ringing for them and it's your turn to respond. Firefighters are a proud bunch, and asking for help is not what they do. So we need to take this on and offer them the protection they deserve.

We appreciate the committee holding this public hearing.

Respectfully,

Lori J. Pelletier

Executive Secretary- Treasurer, Connecticut AFL-CIO

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